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Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

VIA FACSIMILE 202-616-9937

Dear Attorney Hesse:

I would like to add my comments to the record regarding the impending settlement in the Microsoft lawsuit.

As a Former State Senator, who was chairman of the Senate Education Committee and Director of the Massachusetts Literacy Campaign, I saw the effects of the digital divide first hand. Scores of children attend schools with scant resources, which undermine the educational process. Unfortunately, the digital divide also effects working class parents as well.

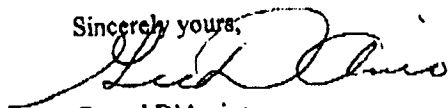
I would like to add my voice to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft lawsuit. I fully support the Agreement's approach of directing part of the settlement towards public schools. We have all heard about the digital divide that exists along socio-economic lines. This divide has an adverse effect on public education. Research states that 82% of classrooms in higher income communities have Internet access while only 60% of classrooms in poorer communities are connected.

This inequity is creating two classes of people, those with computer skills and those without. In this day and age we cannot afford to have students or workers whose computer skills are lacking.

For this reason, I support the aims of the Settlement Agreement that has been proposed. This agreement will provide students with access to technology. The agreement calls for Microsoft to provide 200,000 computers to eligible schools at almost no cost.

I urge the Court to approve the proposed Agreement.

Sincerely yours,



Gerard D'Amico